

ON

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 29th May 1880.

LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
1	"Bhārat Shramajīvi"	Calcutta	2,100	
2	"Grāmvartā Prakāshikā"	Comercolly	175	
3	"Sansodhinī"	Chittagong	600	
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
4	"Purva Pratidhwani"	Ditto	.....
5	"Rajshahye Samvād"	Rajshahye	31	
<i>Weekly.</i>				
6	"Ananda Bazar Patrikā"	Calcutta	700	18th and 25th May 1880.
7	"Arya Darpan"	Ditto	.....	21st May 1880.
8	"Bhārat Mihir"	Mymensingh	671	18th ditto.
9	"Bengal Advertiser"	Calcutta	2,000	
10	"Bardwān Sanjivani"	Bardwān	296	18th ditto.
11	"Dacca Prakāsh"	Dacca	350	
12	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly	745	21st ditto.
13	"Hindu Hitaishini"	Dacca	300	
14	"Hindu Ranjikā"	Beauleah, Rājshāhye...	200	19th ditto.
15	"Howrah Hitakari"	Bethar, Howrah	400	
16	"Medini"	Midnapore	250	19th ditto.
17	"Murshidābād Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	.....	14th ditto.
18	"Navavibhākar"	Calcutta	850	24th ditto.
19	"Pratikar"	Berhampore	275	
20	"Rangpore Dik Prakāsh"	Kākiniā, Rangpore	250	20th ditto.
21	"Sādhārani"	Chinsurah	500	23rd ditto.
22	"Sahachar"	Calcutta	500	
23	"Samālochak"	Ditto	1,000	
24	"Samāchār Sār"	Allahabad	350	
25	"Sanjivani"	Mymensingh	280	
26	"Som Prakāsh"	Calcutta	.....	24th ditto.
27	"Sulabha Samāchār"	Ditto	4,000	22nd ditto.
28	"Shārad Kaumudī"	Bhowanipore	300	
29	"Srihatta Prakāsh"	Sylhet	440	17th ditto.
30	"Tripurā Vartāvaha"	Commillah	.....	15th and 22nd May 1880.
<i>Tri-weekly.</i>				
31	"Samāchār Sudhāvarshan"	Calcutta	.....
<i>Daily.</i>				
32	"Samvād Prabhākar"	Ditto	700	20th to 26th May 1880.
33	"Samvād Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto	300	24th to 28th ditto.
34	"Samāchār Chandrikā"	Ditto	625	22nd to 27th ditto.
35	"Banga Vidya Prakāshikā"	Ditto	500	
36	"Prabhāti"	Ditto	.....	22nd, 24th and 26th May 1880.
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
37	"Murshidābād Patrikā"	Berhampore	487	21st May 1880.
ENGLISH AND URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
38	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta	365	15th and 22nd May 1880.
HINDI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Behār Bandhu"	Bankipore, Patna	500	20th May 1880.
40	"Bhārat Mitra"	Calcutta	500	20th ditto.
41	"Jagat Mitra"	Ditto	157	19th ditto.
42	"Sār Sudhānidhi"	Ditto	200	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
43	"Jām-Jahān-numā"	Ditto	250	21st ditto.

POLITICAL.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 18th, 1880.

WHY are the people, asks the writer of an article communicated to the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, so pleased at the return to power of Mr. Gladstone? It is

The Gladstone Ministry.
now not many years since he was in office. During the six years he held office, from 1868 to 1874, what privileges or benefits were conferred on the people of India that they are now so filled with joy at his victory? Was it not under his administration that the State scholarships were abolished; that a blow was struck at the root of the Permanent Settlement by the imposition of the road cess; that oppression increased owing to the enactment of a new Criminal Procedure Code; and that, by the deposition of the Guicowar, the independence of the Native Princes was destroyed? It is true under Lord Beaconsfield's ascendancy the people of India have been deprived of rights which they had enjoyed for a long time past, and that a succession of calamities has befallen them. But who knows that the same thing would not have occurred had Mr. Gladstone continued to hold office? If, under Mr. Gladstone's administration, an Abyssinian war could be brought about and a Theodore killed quite causelessly, it should not be a matter of wonder that a war against Afghanistan was declared under the Ministry of Lord Beaconsfield. The license tax has been productive of oppressions under Lord Beaconsfield's Government, but it was first imposed when Mr. Gladstone was in power. Lord Lytton, a follower of Lord Beaconsfield, has taken away the liberty of the Press; Lord Mayo, a follower of Mr. Gladstone, struck a blow at the root of high education. The Delhi Durbar held by Lord Lytton, to which Native Princes were led as sheep to be deprived of their independence, was really inaugurated when the Prince of Wales visited India in Lord Northbrook's time. A little reflection will teach the student of the history of British rule in India, that in the government of this country no particular party or individual has ever had any real power. The policy which has always been followed in conducting the administration has not undergone any fundamental change. Lord Lytton has but followed the line of policy which brought Lord Clive into India, and from which it will not be open to Lord Ripon to depart. This policy, however, has been modified according to the times and the wishes of the persons with which it has come in contact. One worthy makes the Press free, another takes away its freedom. The object of both, however, is the same, and both are guided by the same broad lines of policy. The thoughtful reader will see that, when Metcalfe made the Press free, his action was dictated by the requirements of that policy; and that, when subsequently Lord Lytton muzzled it, it was the same policy which required this to be done. The condition to which, by means of the Delhi Durbar, the Native Princes of India have been reduced was inaugurated by Lord Canning's granting of the sunnuds. In conducting the administration of India, therefore, as on the one hand Mr. Gladstone is not entitled to any credit, Lord Beaconsfield is, on the other, not open to any blame. The British Lion in India assumes different forms at different times; it is sometimes the destroyer, and at other times a serene figure; it is now a cruel destroyer of beasts and anon the majestic king of the brute creation. But its essential features can never be thoroughly eliminated. Why then is so much rejoicing? The reason is that Gladstone spoke during the late elections some assuring and soothing words respecting the people of this country. These have endeared him to them. The Anglo-Indians in India, who always talk of the ingratitude and disloyalty of the people, have never yet been able to find out what really moves the latter. They are not taken in by gaslight or railway or telegraph, but they want words of sympathy and assurance.

2. We extract the following observations from an article in the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 18th May:—It

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
May 18th, 1880.

The Cabul War.

is not very easy to bring to a satisfactory settlement the difficulty which has been created in Cabul by Lord Lytton. It is easy enough to create turmoil and spread disorder in a State; but it is not so easy to restore order and consolidate an administration. All these duties the new Viceroy will have to undertake; but it is too much to expect that he will be able to extricate India from the many dangers which threaten her. Millions have already been squandered in Cabul, and there is no knowing how many more will yet have to be squandered there. If the British Government have perceived the moral issues involved in this war, if during the last two years they have obtained even a slight insight into the Afghan character, it now behoves them to return from Cabul. True, this course might engender, for some time to come, difficulties in Afghanistan; but then they will not affect injuriously the interests of India. Nay, a withdrawal from that country would render possible a settlement of its affairs by the Afghans in less time, and at less cost, than would be required if the British remained therein and attempted the task.

3. The *Bhārat Mihir* thus remarks in an article on Kashmere:—For

BHARAT MIHIR,
May 18th, 1880.

Kashmere and the Government of India.

some years past the Conservative Government has consistently distrusted the people of India.

This distrust has been productive of rigorous legislation, and was extended even to the Native Princes of India; hence the efforts to reduce their armies. Of all these Chiefs, the Maharajah of Kashmere has been the most unfortunate; and proposals have even been made for the annexation of his State. Nor would that event have yet remained unaccomplished had the Conservatives but continued to hold office. Even now he is not safe. Grave charges have been published against him in the columns of certain English newspapers. It is not, however, fair that such accusations should be made against a prince without even an attempt to substantiate them. If the Maharajah of Kashmere has been really faithless, and has broken the terms of the treaty made with him, let him be condignly punished, and no one will have a word to say by way of protest. But it is a disgrace to the British Government that he should be so easily made a victim of such calumnies.

4. The *Medini*, of the 19th May, regrets to notice the undue exultation with which the people of India have been filled at the return to power of the Liberals.

MEDINI,
May 19th, 1880.

The Liberal victory and native opinion.

At any rate, such exultation is premature. The people should wait and see how the new Ministry acts towards this country. It is not the first time that the Liberal leaders, on whose professions, while in opposition, so much confidence seems to have been placed, have entered upon office. Gladstone and Bright and his other colleagues were in the administration before; but was India a gainer on that account? The writer is not opposed to the ascendancy of the Liberals any more than he is blind to the merits of the Tory party. He is of opinion that if India has derived any advantage from her connection with the British Government, that has been due to the efforts equally of the two great political parties, which are likewise responsible for the evil which has accrued to her.

5. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 24th May, contains an article on affairs in Cabul, and advocates retirement from that country. Government, however, will not

SOM PRAKASH,
May 24th, 1880.

Cabul.

be justified in adopting this course until means have been used for restoring order in Afghanistan. The Afghan war is an event which is quite objectless, and it is such as no sane man would undertake. The late Ministry brought about this sanguinary and expensive war for no intelligible purpose.

whatever. The Liberals, however, in dealing with Afghanistan, must follow an equitable policy. They should instal Yakub Khan on the throne of Cabul, of which he is the rightful owner. It is no use saying that he has been faithless to the British Government, considering that the whole policy in reference to this war is about to be reversed. Yakub's guilt should not be made too much of. Candahar also should be re-attached to Cabul.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 24th, 1880.

6. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 24th May, remarks that, until a system of representative Government is introduced into this country, there can be no expectation of improvement. It is not, however, proposed that the Indian Association should be all at once converted into an Indian Parliament. What is required to be done is that the constitution of the Legislative Councils should be altered; native representatives should more largely be admitted into them, while the power of these Councils increased. The suggestion that the more competent members of the Presidency Town Corporations in India should be appointed to sit in the Legislative Councils is not a bad one.

PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA,
May 15th, 1880.

7. The *Tripura Vartavana*, of the 15th May, does not see that the proposal to transfer Tipperah to the Chittagong Commissionership has much to recommend it. The Collector, whose opinion has been asked on this matter, will doubtless consult the wishes and interests of the people concerned, and it is to be hoped that there will be no undue haste made to arrive at a decision. There is only one argument which is advanced in support of the proposed arrangement, namely that, as the Commissioner of Dacca, who is over-weighted with work, finds but little time to devote to the affairs of Tipperah, a backward district which particularly needs looking after, and as the Commissioner of Chittagong has been recently relieved of his duties as the Judge of the district, the transfer might be made with advantage. This argument, however, does not possess much soundness. It is not too much for a Divisional Commissioner to take charge of five or six districts, nor is it reasonable to urge that the affairs of Tipperah are in danger of being overlooked in favour of more advanced districts; the probability on the contrary being that they will receive more attention from their connection with such advanced localities. It is not advisable to give effect to the suggested arrangement. There are no facilities of communication existing between Tipperah and Chittagong. Navigation is practicable for only two months in the year, while the only conveyance available for travelling by land is the bullock cart, the use of which is expensive. The distance also is great, Chittagong being nearly five days' journey from Tipperah. The former labours under another disadvantage. It is extremely unhealthy. Dacca, on the other hand, is free from all these disadvantages. It is reached in less time, and the travelling also is cheaper. Most of the zemindars of Tipperah are residents of Dacca, and there is an old familiarity between the inhabitants of the two districts, which is of considerable help in the transaction of business.

TRIPURA VARTAVANA.

8. The same paper deprecates the proposal which is now under the consideration of Government to revise the question of salaries as regards the establishments attached to the Civil Courts. Considering the responsible and arduous nature of the work which the ministerial officers are required to do—work which is daily increasing in consequence of the large number of circulars issued every month by Government and the High Court—it is almost impossible to reduce the number of these officers; nor is it advisable to reduce their *already low* salaries. The writer would even go further than

this, and suggest that an increase of salary should be given them with a view to attract the services of educated men.

9. The *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the 18th May, has been informed that the Vernacular Press Act will shortly be repealed, and that Sir Ashley Eden has been asked to introduce a Bill in the Legislative Council for this purpose. The Editor publishes the substance of the draft Bill in Bengali, of which the following is a translation :—

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 18th, 1880.

Section 1.—Whereas the present Administration have resolved to remove the injuries inflicted on India by Conservative statesmen, it has become necessary to repeal Act IX of 1878.

Section 2.—Lord Lytton was subservient to the Premier, Lord Beaconsfield, and the members of the Council of the Governor-General were subservient to Lord Lytton. Hence by passing Act IX of 1878, the members of that Council brought the British Government into disrepute and degraded the British people among the civilized nations of the world. Those that were parties to this Act are not only the enemies of India, but of the British Government also.

Section 3.—Bengal is the most advanced of all the territories under the British Government, and its inhabitants have suffered the most from the passing of Act IX. When the Governor-General therefore was passing this measure into law, as the Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal I should have protested against it; instead of doing which, however, I showed the greatest interest in the opposite direction. This course was extremely reprehensible, and no good but positive injury has resulted from it.

Section 4.—The Maharajah Jatindra Mohan Tagore has received for this the title of C.S.I., but I have had no title conferred on me. When Sir Richard Temple returned to England, Lord Beaconsfield was Premier and Lord Lytton the Viceroy—and yet they appointed somebody else and not me to the Governorship of Bombay. The ingratitude they have shown has met with condign punishment. They have been defeated and turned out of office; while Heaven only knows what mortification I have been enduring in consequence of the ingratitude which I showed to the people of Bengal by my advocacy of the Press Act.

Section 5.—Those that slander Native Editors are liars and low-minded men, and lack both moral scruples and statesmanship. Native Editors expressed great joy at my appointment to the Lieutenant-Governorship; and it is quite possible that, but for their assistance, there would have been no chance of my getting the post. I am therefore grateful to them, and should seek to benefit them as far as lies in my power.

Section 6.—There are not a few who say that Native Editors are uneducated men; that they belong to low families and do not possess any social status. Those that say so are either ignorant or knowingly tell an untruth.

Section 7.—Bengali newspapers are generally edited by men who possess as much education as those who conduct English newspapers. The former, however, excel in this respect, that they labour with disinterestedness. Hence it is that they are often obliged to write things which prove distasteful to the authorities, and make them lose the favour of Government. Owing to the degradation of, and the want of independence in, Bengali society at the present time, and the habit of placing a reliance upon the rulers which is common with the Bengalis, it is just possible that those who conduct any newspaper in Bengali, or any other vernacular language, might not be possessed of much influence in native society; but there is not to be found among the Editors of chief Bengali newspapers such low caste men as may be met with among the Editors of English Journals. The chief Bengali newspapers are

edited by men who belong either to the Brahman, Baidya, or the Kaistha class.

Section 8.—It is for these reasons necessary that Act IX should be repealed. Would to Providence that the Conservatives might never any more return to power; even if they did, might I never again be required to hold any office under them; even if required to do so, might I never any more be appointed Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal; even if made Lieutenant-Governor, might Providence endow me with such means and mental resources that I should be able to lay down my office and retire like Campbell and Grey.

The above reads more like a penitent confession on the part of Sir Ashley Eden than a draft Bill. Perhaps the person who sent us this made a mistake, and instead of sending us the Bill has forwarded a summary of the speech with which Sir Ashley Eden probably intends to introduce it in the Council.

ANANDA BASAK
PATRIKA,
May 18th, 1880.

10. The same paper remarks: Sir Ashley Eden was about to inflict a great injury upon Bengal by his intended abolition of the Berhampore College; but thank God he has now desisted from the attempt. We shall hold ourselves gainers if the good works left by his predecessors and others be maintained by him, and do not expect to receive from him anything beyond this. He had once resolved to abolish the Calcutta Municipality; by giving up this intention he conferred a signal benefit upon us. Similarly, by allowing the Berhampore College to continue, he has laid us under an obligation. When preceding Governors laid down their office and retired, the people always calculated what good they had done; when Sir Ashley Eden leaves this province, we shall see what injuries he has *not* inflicted upon it.

BNARAT MIHIR,
May 18th, 1880.

11. The *Bhārat Mihir*, of the 18th May, contains a long article on the employment of natives in high offices. It is observed by the Editor that, having created high aspirations in the native mind by imparting to it education, it is not wise in Government to allow them to remain unsatisfied. The natives do not enjoy political equality with Europeans. A few lower class appointments are all that is open to them. Hence there is dissatisfaction. In fact, the British Government, which is the friend of liberty and progress, cannot contemplate with pride the spectacle of a nation pining away for lack of such occupation as may satisfy its aspirations. It is not a love of service which accounts for the demand of the natives for employment in superior offices under Government; the fact being that exclusion therefrom is a sure sign of national degradation.

BNARAT MIHIR.

12. The same paper remarks, in reference to the error which has been discovered in the budget, that the despatch of the Government of India on this matter has, instead of containing a defence of Lord Lytton's conduct, rather clearly revealed his incompetency and insincerity. It is clear that this document was prepared with a view to screen the authorities of the Financial Department. The whole blame therefore has been sought to be transferred to the shoulders of the military authorities. It is not easy to see what led Sir Edwin Johnson to take all the responsibility on account of the error upon himself. But this action on his part notwithstanding, it is really shameful to find that Lord Lytton and his colleagues, headed by Sir John Strachey, should have thus sought to exculpate themselves. Their efforts, however, have not been successful. The English and the Indian public have equally seen through their insincerity.

13. Sir Ashley Eden's love for this country, remarks the *Murshidabad Patriká*, of the 21st May, has continued to exist to the present day. It must be confessed, however, that for some time after his elevation to the Lieutenant-Governorship, the public measures of his Government produced dissatisfaction and disappointed those who had expected much from him. But this was due to the restraints placed upon him by Lord Lytton and Sir John Strachey, from whom he has met with considerable obstruction whenever he has sought to accomplish any good. Now that important changes in the *personnel* of the Government have been made, it is to be hoped that his plans for the improvement of the country by the construction of railways and other works will be taken in hand. That this will be done is seen from his action in reference to the Berhampore College, which has been saved from threatened destruction. Who will after this deny Sir Ashley Eden's love for Bengal? The writer proceeds to call upon his fellow citizens of Murshidabad to join in singing the praises of His Honor.

The Berhampore College.

MURSHIDABAD
PATRIKA,
May 21st, 1880.

14. The *Sulabha Samáchar*, of the 22nd May, refers to the large number of suits instituted against Government by the tenantry of the khas mehals in Midnapore. Considerable uneasiness prevails among them in consequence of the recent assessments by which their rents have been unduly enhanced. The ameens have done their work very unsatisfactorily. There is no foundation for the statement made by Mr. Price, the District Collector, that the enhanced rates have not dissatisfied the tenants. The Editor asks the authorities to take a true view of the condition of these men before sanctioning the increased rates.

Enhancement of rent in the khas mehals of Contai.

SULABHA SAMACHAR,
April 22nd, 1880.

15. The *Urdu Guide*, of the 15th May, does not see what good there will accrue from the introduction of the Nagree character in place of the Urdu in the Courts of Behar. Neither the suitors nor the pleaders are likely to be benefited by this arrangement. It is desirable that the written language used in the law courts should be a correct and grammatical language, and not the ungrammatical dialect used by the people, which is different for different villages. Now, if Urdu is superseded by the Kaithi, an ungrammatical language will take the place of a correct one.

The Nagree character in Behar.

URDU GUIDE,
May 15th, 1880.

16. One Chaitanya Giri sends to the *Sádháraní*, of the 23rd May, a letter containing grave charges against Babu Chandra Bhushan Chakravarti, the tehsildar of the Terai, who is described as an utterly unprincipled man, and given to oppressions and extortions. He abuses the pleaders in open court, is entirely under the influence of his friend, one Harsundar Mazumdar, who takes advantage of this circumstance. The tehsildar receives illegal gratifications, and makes the court peons do his domestic work. The facts described by the correspondent are supported by the testimony of the amlah of the local court and of the other respectable residents of the place. The attention of His Honor is directed to this matter.

Charges against a tehsildar of Jul-pigoree.

SADHARANI,
May 23rd, 1880.

17. In continuation of the remarks noticed in paragraph 18 of our last Report, the *Som Prakásh*, of the 24th May, suggests the need of enacting a law for the prevention of cases of assault. The laws which are now in force contain provisions for the punishment of offenders. This is not enough: the injury sustained by the aggrieved party is not repaired, and he has to bear the wounds inflicted on him, even though he may have the satisfaction of seeing his oppressor subjected to punishment. Even this satisfaction is not always possible in cases in which death results from the assault. What is therefore required is that there should be passed a law especially

A law for the prevention of assaults.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 24th, 1880.

prescribing assault, and that both Europeans and Natives should be brought under its operation.

SOM PRAKASH,
May 24th, 1880.

18. The same paper is of opinion that the post of Viceroy may now be abolished with safety. It is no longer necessary. Able men in charge of the different

The post of Viceroy.
Presidencies may, in direct correspondence with the authorities in England, carry on the work of Government. The abolition of the office might also lead to considerable savings and decrease of official work; while the British Government be saved from again incurring the disgrace which has been brought on its reputation by the actions of ambitious Viceroys. If, however, the office must be kept up, it should be conferred upon men who have had a previous training in official work and possess a knowledge of this country. The British Government, it is really strange to find, exacts experience from those who would seek promotion to any position of trust and responsibility; and so the Civil Servants begin their official career by serving as Assistant Magistrates; but it usually confers the post of Viceroy on some one who is quite new to the duties appertaining to it. The result often is that a Governor-General, fresh from home, makes experiments in the work of administration, which cause hardship to the people. It is therefore proposed that the best men in the service, say the ablest of the Lieutenant-Governors who is already in the country, should be elevated to the Viceroyship, and the present practice of importing new men from England for this office should be discontinued.

SOM PRAKASH.

19. The same paper learns from its Jessore correspondent that oppressions in connection with the cultivation of indigo are again reported from Jessore; and remarks

Indigo oppressions in Jessore.
that they will not cease until the system of making advances to the ryot, and the practice of sowing indigo by force, are put a stop to. The attention of His Honor is directed to this matter.

SOM PRAKASH.

20. The same paper contains a long article headed "Municipalities."

Municipalities in the mofussil.
It is remarked that, although municipalities have been established in many parts of the country, and the inhabitants pay the municipal tax, they do not receive any adequate advantages. Many places lack good drainage, and the supply of pure water and roads. The chief cause of this state of things is to be found in the practice of having a Magistrate as the Chairman of a municipality. This officer is desirous of keeping almost all powers in his own hands. It is not unoften that meetings cannot be held for the absence of the Chairman. Any member possessed of local experience and general ability should therefore be made Chairman, and there should be Inspectors appointed, each of whom should supervise the actions of a number of municipalities. The cost of maintaining the police should not be wholly levied from these bodies, because, after paying for the police, there remains but little money to be expended on roads and other useful public works. Most of the local funds already surrendered to the municipalities do not in practice return any profits. Men of ability again do not wish to be appointed Commissioners; and this is one of the reasons why municipalities are not a success. Government should seek to induce really able men by offers of political rights to consent to serve on the municipalities.

NAVAVIBHAKAR,
May 24th, 1880.

21. The *Navavibhakar*, of the 24th May, remarks that the decision of the Privy Council in the Hindu Unchastity

The Hindu Unchastity case.
case is quite subversive of the notions of social morality and stability of the Hindus. The decision might pass muster in England; but in India it will lead to gravely injurious consequences. It clearly shows that a Hindu widow will find it more to her advantage to live in open adultery than to take a second husband, because, while the latter

course will compel her to give up all claims to the property of her deceased husband, the former is not attended by any such disadvantages. By importing English ideas into discussions of Hindu law, the tribunals have inflicted a serious wrong on the people of this country.

22. "The cause, says the *Ananda Bazar Patriká*, of the error which

The error in the Budget—Lord Lytton's explanation.

has now been discovered in the budget, yet remains unexplained, and it is quite possible that had Lord Beaconsfield remained in power

the flaw would never have been revealed. Lord Lytton, however, has attempted an explanation, and we give below the substance of his despatch on this subject to the Secretary of State:—

"Myself, my colleagues, and particularly Sir John Strachey, are exceeding honest men, and are also very competent for our work. How, in spite of this, an error has been discovered in the budget, we are unable to say. This must be due to our ill-luck. Had our master, Lord Beaconsfield, been now in power, this discovery would perhaps have never been made; and this even if the amount had been four hundred millions instead of four millions of pounds only. Those that are conversant with statesmanship and the work of Government would not look upon this as an error; but regard it as an instance of wonderful skill." The writer then proceeds to make Lord Lytton say that Sir John Strachey had most carefully examined the estimates of the war expenditure, but could not discover any error; that Major Newmarch alone is to blame for it; that it is quite possible that the Liberals have by some stratagem inserted this error in the accounts; that the error might be due to the lavish expenditure on account of the war, and that he is not responsible for it, because it was Sir John Strachey who had the sole management of the finances.

RAJKRISHNA MUKHOPADHYAYA, M.A. & B.L.,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,

The 29th May 1880.

ANANDA BAZAR
PATRIKA,
May 25th, 1880.

